

Court Service Unit

History

The 14th District Court Service Unit (CSU) is a State Agency under the Department of Juvenile Justice. Prior to becoming a State Agency in 1989, the CSU was a locally managed Department of the County of Henrico. The first Director of Court Services was Bud Hare who served between 1967 and 1970 before becoming the Director of Court Services for the City of Richmond. From 1970 through 1979 Agnes White served as Director. During Ms. White's tenure the Agency moved in 1976 from 22nd and Main Street in the City of Richmond to its current location on Dixon Powers Drive. During Ms. White's tenure five programs were developed:

- Court Alternative Program, a program used to divert youth from further involvement in the court system through group meetings,
- Community Service Program, a program to allow youth to pay back the community for their actions,
- Court Explorer Post 900 for youth, a program that provided outward bound types of experiences for youth,
- Volunteer Program, and
- Cottage One at St. Josephs Villa, an alternative living situation for youth.

Following Ms. White's tenure John Willis became the Director of Court Services in 1980 during which time the Henrico Juvenile Detention Home was completed. Mr. Willis was followed by David Jones in 1991, Kay Frye in 2001 and the current Director of Court Services, Sean Milner in October of 2011. The CSU has moved over the years from a staff of fewer than 5 personnel to the current staffing level of 36 probation officers, support staff, supervisors and the director.

The Court Service Unit currently provides the following services to the citizens of the County of Henrico:

- Probation services
- Parole services
- Investigative services to the Court
- Diversion programs through the Court Alternative Program, Community Service Program and the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act, a county agency.

The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is:

To protect the public through a balanced approach of accountability and comprehensive services that prevent and reduce delinquency through partnerships with families, schools, communities, law enforcement, and others, while providing opportunities for delinquent youth to become responsible and productive citizens.

The core values of the Department are:

- All youth and their families are worthy of our best efforts.
- Offer early and effective interventions to limit youth's further involvement in the juvenile justice system.
- Meeting the individual physical, emotional, and educational needs of youth and reducing their risk of re-offending.
- Provide safe and secure confinement for those who are a danger to the community as well as treatment to help youth succeed.
- Working in partnership with other agencies and localities.
- Recruiting, supporting and maintaining a competent and diverse work force.

The goals of the 14th District Court Service Unit are:

- To provide necessary intake, investigative and probation/parole services as required by the court and the Code of Virginia.
- To refer youth and parents to community based services under the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act or other state supported programs.
- To offer the domestic relations services of intake, parenting education, mediation, and home studies to adults who qualify according to the Code of Virginia.